A

LETTER

FROM A

MERCHANT

TO A

Member of Parliament,

RELATING TO

The Danger GREAT BRITAIN is in of losing her Trade, by the great Increase of the Naval Power of *Spain*.

WITH A

Chart of the *Mediterranean Sea* Annex'd.

The SIXTH EDITION.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year MDCCXVIII.

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November the 5th, 1718.

SIR,

THE late Action between His Majesty's Fleet and that of *Spain*, is become the Entertainment of most Conversations; but the Misfortune is, that there is not one in Five Hundred of the Persons who thus entertain themselves, that has any just Idea of the good Consequences thereof. For though the Words, *Sicily* and *Sardinia*, are often in their Mouths, they scarce know in what Part of the World those Islands are situated; and consequently must be ignorant of what Importance it

it is to the Trade of *Great Britain*, to have them in the Hands of a Faithful Ally, and, if poſſible, of one who is not Formidable at Sea.

This is fully explain'd by the Annex'd Chart of the *Mediterranean* Sea: Whereby it demonſtratively appears, that *Sardinia* and *Sicily* lie like Two Nets ſpread to intercept, not only our *Italian*, but *Turkey* and *Levant* Trades.

For the Paſſage between *Sicily* and *Italy* to the *Levant* may effectually be blocked up by Ships of War from *Meſſina*; and the Canals of *Sardinia* and *Malta* (the uſual Courſe of our *Turkey* Ships, deſcribed by a Line drawn from the *Streights* of *Gibraltar* to *Scanderoon*) may be rendred very dangerous, if not wholly impracticable, by Cruiſers from *Syracuſa* and the *Southern* Ports of *Sicily*, and from *Cagliari* in *Sardinia*; And yet, as if this was not enough, our Ships are ſtill to run the Gantlope between the Ports of *Spain* on the one hand, and *Ceuta* and ſuch other Places as (it is ſaid, by a late Treaty) are to be deliver'd up to the *Spaniard* by the *Moors* on the Coaſt of *Barbary*, on the other.

Nor

Nor must *Cadiz* be forgotten, which, though lying on the *Atlantick* Ocean, is situated so near to the Mouth of the *Streights*, that it seems as a Key to lock it up. And should the Naval Power of *Spain* increase in the manner it has lately done, it is very natural to expect, that Kingdom will either assume to her self the Trade of the *Mediterranean* Sea, exclusive of all other Nations, or impose upon them what Toll she pleases for passing the *Streights* of *Gibraltar*, in Imitation of the King of *Denmark* at *Elsinore*, and be in a much better Capacity to assert her Pretensions.

Nor is the Loss of our *Italian*, *Turkey*, and *Levant* Trades, the only Misfortune *Great Britain* is to apprehend from the Increase of the Naval Power of *Spain*, but our Trade to *Portugal* must also run the same Fate, from the *Spanish* Ports in *Biscay* and *Galicia*, as appears by the Annexed Chart.

And should the Enterprizing Priest, who now sits at the Helm of the *Spanish* Government, think fit to attack *Portugal* (a Kingdom that can receive no Assistance from her Allies, but by Sea) with the numerous Troops of *Spain*,

she

must probably fall under the *Spaniſh* Yoke, and thereby *Spain* become ſole Miſtreſs of the Treaſure of the World!

So that without entring into the School-Boys Diſpute of Who ſtruck firſt? it is evident, the Trade of *Great Britain* muſt be entirely precarious, ſhould the Naval Power of *Spain* increaſe in Proportion to what it has lately done in ſo ſhort a Time, and that the Iſlands of *Sicily* and *Sardinia* ſhould continue in the Poſſeſſion of the *Spaniards*.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt Humble,

BRITISH MUSEUM 9 JY 74

AND

moſt Obedient Servant.

IRELAND
ENG
LAND
London
EUROP
MEDITI
FRANCE
Rochell
Bordeaux
Bayona
Barcelona
Genoua
Venice
Rome
Ravenna
Pisa
Leghorne
Chiosa
Majorca
Minorca
Iuica
SPAIN
PORTUGAL
Galicie
BISCAY
Lisbon
Seville
Gibraltar
Cadiz
Streights of Gibraltar
Ceuta
Algier
Tripoly
Africa
AFRI
This Line is the Tract of Canal of Sardinia
Malta

A CHART of the
DITERRANEAN SEA
O P E
Venice
Rome
Naples
Malta
Sailing to
Scanderoon
Cyprus
Tripoly
Tripoli
Rhegio
Siracusa
Messina
SICILY
MORIA
Candia
Rhodes
Alexandria
Jaffa
Acari
Tortosa
Constantinople
Lodrin
Bonifacio
Zara
Corfu
Canal of Malta
A S I A
C A
I
50
45
40
35
30